

# Culmstock Rural District.

COUNTY OF DEVON.

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## Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health,

For the Year ended 31st December, 1907.

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GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for 1907.

**Population.** The population is mainly an agricultural one, but includes quarrymen at Westleigh, and woollen factory hands at Culmstock. The area of your district is 20,972 acres, and the population in 1901 was 3,336. There were 752 inhabited houses with an average of 4.43 persons per house. I estimate the population of the district last year to be 3,258.

### Vital Statistics:

**Births.** The total births registered during the year were 77, giving a birth rate of 23.6 per 1,000 of estimated population. This is a slight increase on the rate of last year, which was 22.8 per 1,000, the average for the past 10 years being 26.4 per 1,000.

Of the births 43 were males and 34 females, and 72 legitimate and 5 illegitimate.

**Deaths.** The total number of deaths registered were 49, giving a death rate of 11.9 per 1,000 of estimated population. This is about the same for the past three years, the average for the past 10 years being 13.7 per 1,000.

Seventeen of the deaths occurred in persons over 65 years of age, and 16 in infants under one year.



The causes were classified as follows:—Measles 2, Whooping Cough 5, Diarrhoea 2, Enteritis 1, Septic diseases 1, Phthisis 2, Cancer 4, Bronchitis 6, Pneumonia 6, Heart Disease 6, all other causes 14.

**Zymotic Death Rate** was high, being 2·1 per 1,000, and entirely accounted for by 5 deaths from whooping cough and 2 from measles, two diseases which the general public are prone to look upon as trivial affairs, and hence inclined to be careless.

**The Infant Death Rate** was very high, being 207·7 per 1,000 births registered. The rate for Rural England for the 10 years, 1881-1890, was 128 per 1,000. Sixteen infant deaths were registered and the causes were measles 2, whooping cough 3, diarrhoea 1, gastritis 1, congenital defects 1, atrophy 2, convulsions 1, bronchitis 2, pneumonia 2, and other causes 1. Thirteen occurred among legitimate and 3 illegitimate infants.

#### **Vital Statistics of the Separate Parishes:—**

	Estimated Population.	Births.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under one year.
Culmstock .....	745	21	8	4
Hemyock .....	810	18	11	5
Clayhidon .....	452	10	12	3
Burlescombe .....	658	19	8	2
Holcombe Rogus	593	9	10	2

**House Accommodation.** Several new houses have been erected in your district during the past year, and Hemyock has been especially active in this direction.

**Water Supply.** On the whole is very good, and is practically entirely from wells and springs.

I have analysed about the usual number of samples during the year, and where there has been cause for complaint matters have been improved.

**Sewerage and Drainage.** We have investigated about the usual number of complaints as regards insanitary conditions, and where necessary the desired improvements have been carried out.

The construction of two public sewers has become necessary, one at Hemyock and another at Culmstock.

There is delay in the latter scheme as, owing to difficulties concerning the outfall and details of scheme, a Local Government Board Enquiry is to take place, and in the meantime matters are at a standstill.

**Isolation Hospital.** None provided.

**Prevalence of Sickness.** There has not been an abnormal amount of sickness in your district. From March to November, measles was prevalent and caused the closing of the public Elementary Schools for periods at Holcombe Rogus, Burlescombe, and Clayhidon.

Only one case of notifiable zymotic disease occurred, and that was a case of scarlet fever at Holcombe Rogus, the source of which I could not trace.

**Disinfection** after cases of notifiable zymotic disease is carried out by your Inspector.

**Slaughter Houses and Bakehouses** were all inspected, and except for minor details in one or two cases all found satisfactory.

**Dairies and Cowsheds Act.** No premises are registered in the district.



**Factories and Workshops Act.** We inspected the one workshop in your district, and found it satisfactory with the exception of an unsafe ceiling, which was at once remedied upon request.

We inspected the premises occupied by 28 lace members employed by the Chard Lace Company, at Holcombe and Burlescombe, and found them satisfactory.

**Midwives Act.** There are four registered in your district. One had provided herself with the prescribed bag and instruments, and did not know how to use some of them; the others have not provided themselves with these things, two cannot write, and none of them keep a correct record of their cases.

I append the Annual Report of your Inspector, and beg to bear witness to his ready help in any work.

Faithfully Yours,

W. HORTON DATE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Culmstock, Devon,

March 5th, 1908.



# Culmstock Rural District.

COUNTY OF DEVON.

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## Annual Report of Inspector.

**For the Year ended 31st December, 1907.**

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GENTLEMEN,

During 1907, the difficulties as regards drainage at Millmoor, Culmstock, which had been known for many years, were brought to a head by the erection of a house planned on modern principles, and it became necessary to tackle the question in earnest, but progress has been arrested pending a Government Enquiry.

Building operations, on a more liberal scale than usual, have been in hand at Hemyock, and the provision of a new sewer to accommodate the new dwellings has become necessary.

The district has been freer than usual of notifiable diseases.

Inspections of the Bakehouses, Slaughter Houses, and Railway conveniences, and of the sanitary conditions of the houses of the home workers in lace mending, and of the Elementary Schools have been made, and no complaints of any magnitude were necessary.

Your Obedient Servant,

R. W. BEADON.



